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# PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

## Standards of accommodation for air travel

## Sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/C.5/47/17).

2. The report, which covers the period from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 44/442 of 21 December 1989 and 46/450 of 20 December 1991, requesting the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Assembly annual reports on standards of accommodation for air travel. The report also includes information on all expenditures by the United Nations for first-class travel and on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions have been made for first-class air travel, as requested by the Assembly in its decision 40/455 of 18 December 1985 and section XIII of its resolution 45/248 A of 21 December 1990.

3. As recalled in the report of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel on a case-by-case basis. In accordance with administrative instruction ST/AI/249/Rev.3, business-class travel may also, in certain circumstances, be authorized by the Secretary-General. During the period under review, that is, from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, the Secretary-General authorized 112 cases of first-class travel and 55 cases of business-class travel as an exception to the standards of accommodation; the total additional costs incurred as a result of these exceptions amounted to $199,675, which compares to a figure of $106,600 for the previous reporting period.

4. Tables 2 and 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/47/17) summarize, by category of exception, the number of exceptions granted during the current and previous reporting periods, respectively; as noted in paragraph 10 of the report, "a significant increase in exceptions was attributable to the category 'eminent persons'". The total number of exceptions under this category in the previous reporting period was 34, at a cost of $34,093, while the number of such exceptions amounted to 78 during the current reporting period, at a cost of $91,071.

5. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the standards of accommodation, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 42/214, should be brought to the attention of all eminent persons whose travel will be financed by the Organization. In this connection, the Committee reiterates its previously expressed view that, while not opposed in principle to the granting of exceptions, it trusts that they will be granted carefully and selectively.

6. The Committee is also of the view that the Secretary-General's report would be enhanced if information were provided in respect of which source of funding (for example, regular budget, trust funds, United Nations Development Programme, and so on) has financed the additional cost attributable to the granting of exceptions to the prevailing standards of travel; it recommends that future reports include such information.

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